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Sen. Kuipers introduces bill to set up criteria for odor-complaint citations

LANSING – Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, today introduced legislation that would require the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to substantiate odor complaints before taking enforcement action.

Senate Bill 1428 would require complaints from at least 25 percent of households and businesses within a half mile of the emission source before the department can find that a violation has occurred. The legislation also would require the department to set forth objective criteria for determining the duration, intensity and frequency of odors that are found to be in violation.

“Current standards lack objectivity and have opened the door for overzealous enforcement,” Kuipers said. “Businesses, especially small, local ones, need firm standards about what is acceptable. This prevents standards from varying across the state.”

Kuipers said he introduced the bill after hearing about how the DEQ cited a small Ottawa County business that had made a reasonable effort to control odors from its plant. The DEQ cited the company because of isolated odor complaints.

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